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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Return
↓MEMORANDUM

March 2, 1970

TO: ARA - Mr. Meyer *W*
THRU: ARA - Mr. Crimmins *W*
FROM: ARA/BR - Robert W. Dean
SUBJECT: Impending Distribution of Study on Torture

In case you missed it, I draw your attention to the attached Intelligence Information Cable on the preparation in Brazil of a study on torture which is to receive fairly wide dissemination. Although it appears from our take that incidents of torture have gone down considerably and that the spate of such activity following the kidnapping of Ambassador Elbrick and the clamp-down on terrorist organizations may have passed us by, the press, congressional and public reaction to these things frequently shows a time lag. Witness the recent reaction to the Indian problem two years after the fact.

Attachment:

*RA Dean
BR.*

FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 403g - CIA

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Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN 031540

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA SDO ONE CRS
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GROUP 1
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CITE FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 403g - CIA

DIST 25 FEBRUARY 1970

COUNTRY: BRAZIL

DOI: MID-FEBRUARY

SUBJECT: IMPENDING WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF ~~A~~ PAM-
PHLET DESCRIBING THE USE OF TORTURE BY THE
BRAZILIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

ACQ:

SOURCE:

~~FOIA(b)(1)~~
~~FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 403g - CIA~~

[illegible]

1. THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCB) AND SOME PROGRES-
SIVE MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAVE COOPERATED IN THE
PREPARATION OF A 74-PAGE PAMPHLET DOCUMENTING SPECIFIC IN-
STANCES OF TORTURE CARRIED OUT UPON POLITICAL PRISONERS

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

(classification)

(dissem controls)

BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL. THIS PAMPHLET WAS CLANDESTINELY PRINTED IN SAO PAULO, AND WAS PAID FOR WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH AND LEFTIST POLITICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THE PCB.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF THIS PAMPHLET WILL BEGIN IN LATE FEBRUARY 1970 WITH AN INITIAL DISTRIBUTION OVERSEAS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR WORLD NEWS ORGANIZATIONS. LATER, COPIES WILL BE SENT TO PUBLIC MEDIA OUTLETS WITHIN BRAZIL.

3. [] COMMENT: LIBERAL CLERGY WITHIN THE CHURCH IN BRAZIL SEEM TO BE ASSUMING THE POSITION OF A CENTRAL COLLECTING POINT FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING TORTURE. IN THIS ROLE, THE CHURCH APPARENTLY IS WILLING TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THE PCB. []

[] DOM HELDER C A M A R A, ARCHBISHOP OF RECIFE AND OLINDA, MET WITH A LEADER OF THE PCB BEFORE HIS TRIP TO ROME IN JANUARY 1970. IN THIS MEETING, THE PCB DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT HAD SUBORNED DOM HELDER, BUT THAT THE PCB, WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE POPE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ATROCITIES. DOM HELDER EXPLAINED TO THE PCB THAT HE SOUGHT TO MEET WITH

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(classification)

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THEM IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE POPE THE OPINIONS OF THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF POLITICAL GROUPS IN BRAZIL.)

4. [] COMMENT: []

[]
CANDIDO M E N D E S, AN IMPORTANT CATHOLIC LAYMAN AND RESPECTED POLITICAL SCIENTIST IN RIO DE JANEIRO, IS PREPARING A SCHOLARLY, RATHER THAN POLEMICAL, WORK ON THE USE AND EXTENT OF TORTURE IN BRAZIL. THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BRAZILIAN BISHOPS (CNBB), AND WILL BE SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. THE COMPLETED WORK WILL PROBABLY BE PUBLISHED IN EUROPE. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RIO DE JANEIRO EMBASSY, IS CURRENTLY DRAFTING AN AIRGRAM PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PROF. MENDES' INVOLVEMENT WITH THE TORTURE ISSUE.)

5. [] DISSEM: STATE, DEFENSE ATTACHE, CINCSO.

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~SECRET~~